

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Time

1:00 p.m. State Board Regular Meeting

Location

**Rutledge Conference Center
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina**

***E. Tim Moore, Jr., Esq., Chair
Gerrita Postlewait, PhD, Chair-elect
Jim Rex, PhD***

***State Superintendent of Education
Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board***

I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The State Board of Education (SBE) convened at 1:00 p.m. Chair Moore called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Color Guard from the South Carolina National Guard (SCNG) Youth ChalleNGe Academy presented the colors.

The following State Board of Education (SBE) members were in attendance for the meeting: Tim Moore, Esq., Chair, Second Judicial Circuit; David Longshore, PhD, First Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Josie Gaston, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Libby Swad, Seventh Judicial Circuit; Dru James, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn (Lyn) Norton, EdD, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Amelia Herlong, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Michael Blue, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Phillip Bowers, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; Dennis Thompson, Jr., Fourteenth Judicial Circuit; Britt Blackwell, OD, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit; and Mike Brenan, Governor's Appointee.

Absent with apologies were Gerrita Postlewait, PhD, Chair-Elect, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Hampton Hubbard, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; and Cindy Clark, Ninth Judicial Circuit.

The following South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff were in attendance: Jim Rex, PhD, State Superintendent of Education; Janice Poda, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Administration; Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Karla Hawkins, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Wendy Cartledge, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Paige Sanders, Intern, Office of General Counsel; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of

Educator Quality and Leadership; Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Support; Teri Siskind, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability; and Cindy Clark, Recording Secretary.

II. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR JUNE 9, 2010

Chair Moore asked for a motion to approve or amend the SBE minutes for June 9, 2010. Marilyn (Lyn) Norton moved to approve the minutes and Phillip Bowers seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR JULY 14, 2010

Chair Moore asked for a motion to approve or amend the SBE agenda for July 14, 2010. Phillip Bowers moved to approve the agenda and Britt Blackwell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Chair Moore welcomed all visitors including those from Clarendon School District One, EdisonLearning, South Carolina State Museum, Anderson University, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, South Carolina School Improvement Council, South Carolina Turnaround Schools, and the South Carolina Senate Education Committee. There was no news media present.

Chair Moore turned the meeting over to Superintendent Rex to present recognitions and his report.

V. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT AND RECOGNITIONS

State Superintendent of Education Rex recognized the South Carolina National Guard (SCNG) Youth ChalleNGe Academy Program and asked Mark Bounds, who serves on the Youth ChalleNGe Academy Board, to make a few comments. Mr. Bounds said this is a bootcamp type of experience for young individuals who have made some bad choices in their lives. It is a federally funded program operating in fifteen states, and South Carolina was one of the first states to adopt the program. Parents volunteer their children to attend the Academy for 22 weeks. More than half the students get their GED, and many return to their schools in good standing.

Dr. Rex also recognized Scott Gould, a creative non-fiction instructor at the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. This year, Mr. Gould received three national awards for his contributions to the teaching profession. First, he was one of two teachers to receive a special Ovation Inspiring Teacher award by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. This \$1,000 award recognized his exemplary dedication to students. He submitted the greatest number of student national award-winning submissions in art and writing.

Secondly, two of Mr. Gould's own students, who were recipients of the U.S. Department of Education's Presidential Scholars award, honored him. The Presidential Scholars program honors youth who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, artistic excellence, leadership, citizenship, and service at school and in their community. The students, who attend the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, were our state winners. They invited Mr. Gould, as their most influential teacher, to accompany them to the nation's capitol and receive this national honor.

Finally, Mr. Gould received the prestigious YoungArts Distinguished Educators in the Arts award. This award recognizes outstanding high school educators and is unique because honorees are selected by their students—both past and present. Winners are educators who have taken an active role in their students' education, devoting their personal time and energy to encourage and shape the artistic development of their students. This award also came with a \$1,000 stipend.

Amanda Burnette was recognized by Dr. Rex for winning the State NAACP Award for her determination to promote equality in educational opportunities for all students and for capturing the attention of people throughout the world, including President Barack Obama. She was one of seven individuals honored recently at the organization's annual Freedom Fund Celebration.

During Mrs. Burnette's principalship at J. V. Martin Junior High in Dillon, the school became a state and national symbol of inadequate schools. One of Amanda's students, Ty'Sheoma Bethea, was invited to join the First Family for Obama's first address to Congress after she sent a letter to Washington seeking help for the school. Mrs. Burnette helped Ty'Sheoma get her letter to members of Congress and eventually to Obama. Once the President's invitation for his address was extended, she secured funds for the student and her mother to make the trip to Washington.

While at J.V. Martin, Mrs. Burnette helped garner donations totaling more than \$1 million. J.V. Martin's test scores improved dramatically in all core subject areas, as did student attendance and the caliber of teaching. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that Dillon County had qualified for \$35.8 million in loans and \$4 million in grants under the

federal stimulus program, with \$24 million of those dollars aimed at replacing J.V. Martin. Mrs. Burnette's enthusiasm, creativity, and vigor were integral to improving teaching and learning at J.V. Martin Junior High. She currently serves as the director of the South Carolina Turnaround Schools Initiative and as project leader for the 21st Century Campus project. She continues to make an impact on the state level, helping to provide concentrated assistance to the schools that need it the most. Amelia Herlong is her SBE member.

Another award winner was Dr. Janice Poda. Dr. Rex congratulated her for winning the prestigious William B. Harley Lifetime Achievement Award. Each year, SCASA selects three education leaders as exemplars of education leadership. Dr. Poda has served South Carolina for 33 years in Greenwood, Horry County, South Carolina Center for Teacher Recruitment, and the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) striving to improve teacher quality. In her current role as Deputy Superintendent for Administration at the SCDE, she assists and advises the State Superintendent of Education on legal, intergovernmental, regulatory, operational, and financial matters. Dr. Rex, along with SBE members who participated in the nomination of Dr. Poda for the award, is proud of her exceptional service to public education. Chair Moore read a note from Dr. Poda which expressed her appreciation for the honor. Dr. Rex also thanked Dr. Poda for her service while he was "Candidate" Rex, as well as Superintendent Rex.

Dr. Rex reported that 2010–2011 will be a tough and challenging school year due to the budget cuts. School districts, along with the SCDE, over the summer have been wrestling with many of the consequences of the budget cuts. We have more than three quarters of a billion dollars less than we had two years ago. Stimulus money will likely go away at the end of this year. School districts have been cut about 25 percent and the SCDE has been cut 45 percent. The base student cost is back to approximately where it was in 1995. Over two years, we will lose about 6,000 positions; about 4,000 will be classroom teachers. Those who are retaining their jobs are being asked to take unpaid furlough, their salaries are frozen, and they are not receiving cost-of-living raises. The effects of the budget cuts for the school districts will vary somewhat depending upon whether or not a district has built up a contingency fund and whether they will be able to still tap into that fund. Dr. Rex said the statewide impact will result in larger class sizes, fewer teacher assistants, fewer substitute teachers hired, fewer materials, less technology purchased, building maintenance deferred, parents paying participation fees for extracurricular activities, fewer field trips, fundraisers by parents, and the economic ripple effect concerning buying power. He said he hopes, over the next ten months, that we, as a state, figure out how to identify what essential services are in South Carolina and that education will be identified as one of those services. Transformation of shifting the SCDE from a compliance agency to a service support agency will help bring about long-range reform and improvement in the school system.

After the recognitions and report presentation, Chair Moore called for a five-minute recess.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present for public comment.

VII. STATE BOARD ITEMS

SBE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

For Approval

- 01. Adoption of Common Core State Standards (Second Reading)**—Janice Poda, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Administration

Dr. Janice Poda presented for second reading the Common Core State Standards. She said the standards have been in development for about a year and a half as an initiative of 48 states and two territories. Administrators, teachers, parents, and others have looked at these standards over the last 18 months. An analysis was given last month of how these standards compare to the current South Carolina standards. The recommendation is that the Board adopt the common core standards. If adopted, we will be the 25th state to do so.

Mike Brennan commented that at first reading he voted for the adoption of the common core standards, but after further reflection he will vote against the adoption and encouraged the other Board members to do the same. He is concerned that the standards are tied to the Race to the Top program, and that only the states that adopt the common core will be eligible for Title 1 funds. He said the federal government is intent on creating national standards, and that the Board should not give up its sovereignty over public education. If problems occur at the national level, reform will be much more difficult.

Phillip Bowers added that he will vote against the adoption of the common core standards. He said the federal government has made it a priority by way of the Race to the Top program, and that we already have high standards. We are selling out to the federal government and not considering the long-term effects of adopting the standards. Mr. Bowers added that we

would not be the only state to do so if we reject the standards, and he urged the Board to vote against the standards.

Libby Swad commented that she was in favor of adopting the common core standards earlier this year but is now against it. She does agree with the idea of all students being on the same playing field but feels this is something the states should do on their own. The involvement of the federal government in our education system is wrong, and it is against our country's policy and constitution. Ms. Swad urged the Board to vote against the standards.

Dru James cautioned the Board against letting the federal government hijack the process that is run, developed, and analyzed by the states. She said we need to seek other ways to prevent the cautions that have been suggested and not give up our state's process that has already been established.

Bonnie Disney stated that she spent 20 years in the military and has seen almost every state in the union. She has observed the effects of children being subject to different systems. Mrs. Disney said she supports the adoption of the common core standards because we need to have a unified way to help the children in our schools. She also said she studied the standards for ELA and feels they are better than ours.

Chair Moore commented that this is not a recent initiative; this process started in 1989 under President Bush's administration when he called on all the governors to come up with a plan to develop national standards. He doesn't feel the federal government is taking over because we are the federal government, and all states are in the same boat. South Carolina has not, in 300 years, developed an adequate education system, and we have not done so due to various reasons. Chair Moore added that there is nothing wrong with the federal government, and if there is, we need to move forward and fix it. However, we don't fix it by running off in fifty different directions. We need to move forward.

Dr. Britt Blackwell stated that he feels there are too many personal agendas going on without good intentions. He believes in the common core standards but distrusts what is going on in Washington right now. Because of his distrust, he will vote against adopting the common core standards.

Dr. Rex said we have responsibilities as a state and as a nation. He supports, for many reasons including national security, the

common core standards. He stated that the common core falls into our responsibility as a nation. He said international benchmarks are also becoming very important. Dr. Rex said that the standards have not been generated by the federal government, but by most of the states. Most business leaders are in support of the standards, along with the Race to the Top program. Both have strong bipartisan support, and he thinks some people are overreacting to the conspiracy theory. The states have been working on this for a long time, and if the federal government is too intrusive, we do have a way of changing it via the November elections. Dr. Rex urged the Board to support the adoption of the common core standards.

Chair Moore called for the vote. The motion carried. Mr. Bowers and Ms. Swad asked that their votes against adopting the standards be recorded.

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Goal: Conduct a pilot for a value-added process to link (a) student achievement to individual teachers, (b) school effectiveness to principal performance, and (c) performance of graduates to their South Carolina educator preparation unit (including alternative programs) for the purposes of improving the effectiveness of these programs and increasing student achievement.

Committee Report—Amelia Herlong, Chair

Mrs. Herlong introduced guests from Voorhees College, Anderson University, and Limestone College. She then reported that the Education Professions Committee met Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., in Rutledge Room 1000. Mrs. Herlong provided the Board with an overview of the Committee meeting and stated there were three items for approval and one item for information as follows:

For Approval

- 01. Recommendation to Approve the Educator Preparation Unit at Voorhees College as a Candidate for State Accreditation**—Allison Jacques, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Preparation, Support, and Assessment, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

Mrs. Herlong stated that the new administration of Voorhees College has been working closely with the SCDE for two years in order to reinstate the preparation unit for

state accreditation. During the period of candidacy the unit at Voorhees College will collect required state data and make annual reports to the PRC through the AACTE/NCATE and Title II annual reporting processes. Upon the completion of at least ten program completers, but no later than five years after candidacy for state accreditation is established, the unit will participate in a full state accreditation review, the goal of which is to move the unit from candidacy for state accreditation to full state accreditation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Herlong and recognized by Chair Moore that the Board approve the recommendation to approve the educator preparation unit at Voorhees College as a candidate for state accreditation. The motion carried.

02. Professional Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations for Six New Educator Preparation Programs in South Carolina—Allison Jacques, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Preparation, Support, and Assessment, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

Mrs. Herlong reported on the new educator preparation programs. New programs must apply for and receive national or state recognition once they have 10 completers. Once a program is nationally recognized, it must seek periodic reaffirmation of its national recognition status. This reaffirmation occurs on a seven year cycle with NCATE. Technically new programs are "approved with the condition" that they receive national recognition. Some new programs may go up in two years and others may require five or more years to produce ten completers. Continuing programs are approved on the seven year cycle.

The programs are BA in Elementary Education at Voorhees College; BA in Elementary Education at Presbyterian College; Education Specialist in Educational Leadership at Furman; BA in Physical Education at Anderson University; BA in Physical Education at Limestone College; and MAT in Art at Converse College.

A motion was made by Mrs. Herlong and recognized by Chair Moore that the Board approve the PRC's recommendation for six new educator preparation programs in South Carolina. The motion carried.

Dr. Longshore asked that the Board recognize Dr. Sellars, President of Voorhees College. Dr. Sellars said he is very happy

that the Board approved the educator preparation unit at Voorhees. He stated that this will create an opportunity to train teachers to help raise the standards for education in the rural areas and the entire state.

- 03. Recommendation to Appoint Five Members to the Professional Review Committee (PRC)**—Allison Jacques, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Preparation, Support, and Assessment, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

A motion was made by Mrs. Herlong and recognized by Chair Moore that the Board approve the PRC's recommendation that five distinguished public servants serve a three-year term on the Professional Review Committee. They are Bryan Coburn—National Board Certified Teacher, 2009 SC Teacher of the Year; Tammy White—Building-Level Administrator, Rock Hill School District; Dr. Karen Woodward—District-Level Administrator, Lexington One School District; Bill Billingsley—Representative of the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Educator Certification; and Dr. Irma Van Scoy—Representative of State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education, USC, Columbia. The motion carried.

For Information

- 04. Programs Voluntarily Terminated by Institutions of Higher Education**—Allison Jacques, PhD, Director, Office of Educator Preparation, Support, and Assessment, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership

Mrs. Herlong informed the Board that six programs have been voluntarily terminated by institutions of higher education. These programs are Ed in Early Childhood Education at Coastal Carolina University; MEd in Elementary Education at Coastal Carolina University; Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at USC-Upstate; German at Furman University; French and German at Clemson University; and MEd in Elementary Education at USC-Aiken.

The first three programs were merged with other programs, and the last three programs did not have enough people signing up.

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE

Committee Goal: SCDE staff to confer with leaders of eligible districts/schools to identify innovations that could improve student achievement and performance and recommend such waivers in accordance with pertinent statutes and regulations.

Committee Report—Britt Blackwell, OD, Chair

Dr. Blackwell reported that the Innovation and Finance Committee did not meet on Wednesday, July 14, 2010.

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Goals:

The SBE will ensure that the Common Core Standards maintain South Carolina's rigorous expectations for student learning and, if so, adopt a development and implementation plan for Common Core Standards, aligned curriculum resources, formative/summative assessments, and professional development.

The SBE will implement the Connect the Dots recognition for SC Department of Education staff members receiving national and state distinctions for their efforts to provide quality educational experiences for South Carolina students.

Committee Report—Cindy Clark, Chair

In the absence of Chair Clark, Dr. Marilyn (Lyn) Norton gave the Committee report. Dr. Norton reported that the Standards and Learning Committee met Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at 9:05 a.m. in Rutledge Room 806. She provided the Board with an overview of the Committee meeting and stated there was one item for approval and three items for information as follows:

For Approval

- 01. Subject Areas for the 2010 Instruction Materials Adoption Cycle**—Kriss Stewart, Program Coordinator, Office of Standards and Support, Division of Standards and Learning

Dr. Norton stated that in January 2010 the SBE approved the following subject areas for the 2010 Instruction Materials Adoption Cycle: English Language Arts, Elementary; Integrated English Language Arts K–5 with Leveled Texts; Health Science to include Gerontology, Emergency Medical Services, and Medical Terminology; Business, Management, and Administration to include Integrated Business Applications and Computer Applications.

Because of the funding shortfall, the SCDE is requesting that the SBE approve a change to the list of adoption areas for 2010 by delaying K–5 English Language Arts until funding becomes available and continuing with areas for Health Science and Business, Management, and Administration as planned. Materials adopted as part of the 2010 adoption cycle are slated to be funded in FY 2011–12.

A motion was made by Dr. Norton and recognized by Chair Moore that the Board approve a modified list of subject areas for the 2010 Instruction Materials Adoption Cycle. The motion carried.

For Information

- 02. Update on LiteracySC**—Pam Wills, Unit Leader, Early Childhood and Literacy, Division of Standards and Learning

Dr. Norton reported that, as a continuation from the June SLA meeting, a presentation update was made on LiteracySC. This item will come before the full Board at a later time.

- 03. Overview of 2010 South Carolina Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts**—Scot Hockman, Education

Associate, Office of Standards and Support, Division of Standards and Learning

Dr. Norton stated that the 2010 South Carolina Academic Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts will come before the full Board at a later time for approval.

- 04. Update on Release of 2010 Adequate Yearly Progress, Consortia for Assessment, and Summary of Joint Resolution Components**—Teri Siskind, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability

Dr. Norton stated that a report on the Update on Release of 2010 Adequate Yearly Progress, Consortia for Assessment, and Summary of Joint Resolution Components was made by Dr. Teri Siskind.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Goal: *The SBE will devise effective means to broadly share information about the progress being made to transform the education system in the state.*

Committee Report—Tim Moore, Chair

Chair Moore reported that the Policy and Legislative Committee met Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at 10:50 a.m. in the Rutledge Conference Center. Chair Moore provided the Board with an overview of the Committee meeting and stated there was one item for information as follows:

For Information

- 01. Provide Results for the 2009–2010 Palmetto Priority Schools (PPS) in Meeting Satisfactory Implementation of the Individual Goals and Strategies in Each School's PPS Plan of Action Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Addendum**—David Rawlinson, Director, Office of Special Projects

Chair Moore stated that David Rawlinson gave a PowerPoint presentation concerning the results for the 2009–2010 Palmetto Priority Schools (PPS) in meeting satisfactory implementation of the individual goals and strategies in each school's PPS Plan of Action Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Addendum. Mr. Rawlinson presented information on the progress of the schools that have been in the PPS program. He said they developed an

MOA which was signed by the school's principal, superintendent, and Dr. Rex. Chair Moore commented that it was a good report.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

01. Statewide Longitudinal Database System (SLDS)—Gary West, Director, Office of Data Management and Analysis, Division of Accountability

Gary West gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Statewide Longitudinal Database System (SLDS). He said South Carolina is one of 20 states that was awarded an SLDS grant, and we received a \$14.9 million grant to improve student data systems. Over the last few years, several data systems have been integrated to serve teachers and students. The federal grant will make it possible to take the analysis component and put it into the infrastructure so that technology does the analysis for the teacher. This will be a major time-saving tool. The program is also very user-friendly and does not take long to learn.

The SLDS grant will help the state's educators improve student achievement, teacher performance and school quality. It will help South Carolina design, develop, and implement a statewide longitudinal data system—creating the foundation for integrating K–12 data systems with early childhood data systems, other human service systems, postsecondary data systems, and workforce data systems. It will include new data sources and quality control and will create a statewide system for teachers and principals who need information to make immediate decisions about student learning.

Dr. David Longshore commented that SLDS should take care of the logistics that interfere with student learning and give teachers more time to actually teach the students.

Chair Moore asked for clarification concerning the cost and the timeline. Mr. West responded that we have \$14.9 million that has been approved and an additional \$7.5 million Race to the Top grant (if approved) to supplement the SLDS. He said the timeline is four and a half years, but we will try to do it in three and a half years.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 3:00 p.m.